



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 7, 2019

TO: Representative Chris Taylor  
Room 306 West, State Capitol

FROM: Christa Pugh, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Cost of the Private School Choice Programs, Special Needs Scholarship Program, and Independent Charter Schools, 2008-09 to 2018-19 and Estimated 2019-20 and 2020-21

At your request, I am providing information about the cost of the private school choice programs, the special needs scholarship program, and independent charter schools.

Attachment 1 shows the actual costs of the choice programs and the independent charter school program from 2008-09 to 2018-19. The attachment includes the total GPR, aid reduction, and net GPR for each program, as well as totals for each year.

Attachment 2 shows the estimated cost of the choice programs and independent charter school program in each year of the 2019-21 biennium. The estimates are based on projected pupil participation and payment amounts under action taken on the 2019-21 budget by the Joint Committee on Finance to date.

You also asked if Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) or Racine Unified School District (RUSD) have underlevied during the years shown on the attachment. MPS has not underlevied in any of the years between 2008-09 and 2018-19. RUSD has underlevied in one year since the start of the Racine private school choice program (by \$167,600 in 2016-17).

You also requested information on the location of independent charter schools. In the 2018-19 school year, 22 of the schools were located in Milwaukee, two were located in Madison, one was located in Racine, and one was located in Waukesha.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

CP/sas  
Attachment

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Cost of the Choice and Special Needs Scholarship Programs and Independent Charter Schools, 2008-09 to 2018-19 (\$ in Millions)

|  | <u>2008-09</u> | <u>2009-10</u> | <u>2010-11</u> | <u>2011-12</u> | <u>2012-13</u> | <u>2013-14</u> | <u>2014-15</u> | <u>2015-16</u> | <u>2016-17</u> | <u>2017-18</u> | <u>2018-19</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Milwaukee Choice Program</b>          |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Total GPR                                | \$128.8        | \$130.1        | \$130.8        | \$144.3        | \$154.6        | \$161.1        | \$191.0        | \$196.4        | \$203.7        | \$213.3        | \$221.8        | \$1,875.9    |
| GPR Effect of                            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Aid Reduction                            | -48.1          | -44.4          | -40.5          | -49.6          | -53.6          | -51.9          | -56.3          | -51.3          | -46.8          | -41.5          | -36.3          | -520.3       |
| Net GPR                                  | \$80.7         | \$85.7         | \$90.3         | \$94.7         | \$101.0        | \$109.2        | \$134.7        | \$145.1        | \$156.9        | \$171.8        | \$185.5        | \$1,355.6    |
| <b>Racine/Staterwide Choice Programs</b> |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Total GPR                                | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | \$1.6          | \$3.2          | \$10.7         | \$19.5         | \$33.5         | \$40.4         | \$56.3         | \$80.2         | \$245.4      |
| GPR Effect of                            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Aid Reduction                            | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | -0.6           | -1.2           | 0.0            | 0.0            | -16.1          | -25.5          | -42.8          | -68.3          | -154.5       |
| Net GPR                                  | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | \$1.0          | \$2.0          | \$10.7         | \$19.5         | \$17.4         | \$14.9         | \$13.5         | \$11.9         | \$90.9       |
| <b>Special Needs Scholarship Program</b> |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Total GPR                                | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | \$2.6          | \$3.0          | \$8.4          | \$14.0       |
| GPR Effect of                            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Aid Reduction                            | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | -2.6           | -3.0           | -8.4           | -14.0        |
| Net GPR                                  | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | N.A.           | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0        |
| <b>Independent Charter Schools</b>       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Total GPR                                | \$42.7         | \$48.9         | \$56.9         | \$54.4         | \$58.7         | \$63.1         | \$67.9         | \$71.3         | \$61.6         | \$65.6         | \$72.9         | \$664.0      |
| GPR Effect of                            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Aid Reduction                            | -42.7          | -48.9          | -56.9          | -54.4          | -58.7          | -63.1          | -67.9          | -71.3          | -61.6          | -65.6          | -72.9          | -664.0       |
| Net GPR                                  | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0        |
| <b>Total</b>                             |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Total GPR                                | \$171.5        | \$179.0        | \$187.7        | \$200.3        | \$216.5        | \$234.9        | \$278.4        | \$301.2        | \$308.3        | \$338.2        | \$383.3        | \$2,799.3    |
| GPR Effect of                            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Aid Reduction                            | -90.8          | -93.3          | -97.4          | -104.6         | -113.5         | -115.0         | -124.2         | -138.7         | -136.5         | -152.9         | -185.9         | -1,352.8     |
| Net GPR                                  | \$80.7         | \$85.7         | \$90.3         | \$95.7         | \$103.0        | \$119.9        | \$154.2        | \$162.5        | \$171.8        | \$185.3        | \$197.4        | \$1,446.5    |

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Estimated Cost of the Choice and Special Needs Scholarship Programs and Independent Charter School Program, 2019-20 and 2020-21 (\$ in Millions)

|  | <u>2019-20</u> | <u>2020-21</u> | <u>Total</u>  |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Milwaukee Choice Program</b>          |                |                |               |
| Total GPR                                | \$233.7        | \$249.1        | \$482.8       |
| Aid Reduction*                           | <u>-37.4</u>   | <u>-31.9</u>   | <u>-69.3</u>  |
| Net GPR                                  | \$196.3        | \$217.2        | \$413.5       |
| <b>Racine/Statewide Choice Programs</b>  |                |                |               |
| Total GPR                                | \$107.0        | \$136.8        | \$243.8       |
| Aid Reduction                            | <u>-95.4</u>   | <u>-125.9</u>  | <u>-221.3</u> |
| Net GPR                                  | \$11.6         | \$10.9         | \$22.5        |
| <b>Special Needs Scholarship Program</b> |                |                |               |
| Total GPR                                | \$12.7         | \$16.9         | \$29.6        |
| Aid Reduction                            | <u>-12.7</u>   | <u>-16.9</u>   | <u>-29.6</u>  |
| Net GPR                                  | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0         |
| <b>Independent Charter Schools</b>       |                |                |               |
| Total GPR                                | \$79.5         | \$86.4         | \$165.9       |
| Aid Reduction                            | <u>-79.5</u>   | <u>-86.4</u>   | <u>-165.9</u> |
| Net GPR                                  | \$0.0          | \$0.0          | \$0.0         |
| <b>Total</b>                             |                |                |               |
| Total GPR                                | \$432.9        | \$489.2        | \$922.1       |
| Aid Reduction                            | <u>-225.0</u>  | <u>-261.1</u>  | <u>-486.1</u> |
| Net GPR                                  | \$207.9        | \$228.1        | \$436.0       |

\*Excludes the effect of high poverty aid, which by law must be used to reduce the levy impact of the choice aid reduction.